

be potent. *Chordeiles acutipennis* is said to flit along the road at dusk and alight in front of the traveller; a rather unusual habit for a Nighthawk. Is it not possible the bird observed was *Nyctidromus*?

Mr. Richmond has made good use of Lieut. Robinson's collection, adding numerous critical notes and describing no less than ten species as new, most of which are apparently pale island forms of mainland species; they are the following: *Butorides robinsoni*, *Eupsychortyx pallidus*, *Leptotila insularis*, *Scardafella ridgwayi*, *Speotyto brachyptera*, *Doleromyia pallida*,<sup>1</sup> *Amazilia alicia*,<sup>2</sup> *Dendroplex longirostris*, *Quiscalus insularis*, *Cardinalis robinsoni*,<sup>3</sup> and *Hylophilus griseipes*.

In conclusion lists of birds identified during a few days' stay at Guanta and Lagunayra are given.—F. M. C.

**Cherrie on San Domingo Birds.**<sup>4</sup>—Of all the West Indian islands, San Domingo is least known ornithologically. Cuba, Jamaica, and Porto Rico, of the larger islands, have had resident naturalists who have made us acquainted with the fauna of their homes, while the smaller islands could be explored by an energetic collector during a few months' visit. It may be safely said, therefore, that only in San Domingo and Hayti alone is there a probability of discovering birds new to science. Students of the West Indian avifauna will thus welcome this paper by Mr. Cherrie, whose ability as a collector has been proved in other fields.

In an interesting introduction, descriptive of his travels in the island from January to May, 1895, there is abundant evidence that patience, experience, a fever-proof constitution, and enthusiasm were needed to carry the trip to the successful conclusion which the succeeding pages record, while a record of 210 bird-skins in five days' collecting show that material results are not wanting.

Mr. Cherrie's list of only eighty-three species betrays the poverty of an insular avifauna, but of these we have numerous interesting observations on notes and habits. *Dulus dominicus* is stated to build one large nest which is used by a number of females; *Nesocittes micromegas* often resembles some Warblers in actions, while *Chloronerpes striatus* is a Sapsucker. Our Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) is probably a summer resident in San Domingo, a considerable extension of its known breeding range, which was previously supposed to be from Florida north-

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<sup>1</sup> Previously described in 'The Auk,' XII, 1895, 369.

<sup>2</sup> Previously described in 'The Auk,' XII, 1895, 368.

<sup>3</sup> Previously described in 'The Auk,' XII, 1895, 370.

<sup>4</sup> Field Columbian Museum. Publication 10. Ornithological Series, Vol. I, No. 1. Contribution to the Ornithology of San Domingo. By George K. Cherrie, Assistant Curator of Ornithology. Charles B. Cory, Curator of Department. Chicago, U. S. A., March, 1896. 8vo. pp. 26.

ward. Five females with enlarged ovaries were taken and one contained an egg "that would have been deposited in one or two days."

The two new birds discovered have been described by Mr. Cory in this Journal (Vol. XII, 1895, p. 278). One, *Elainea cherrii*, is related to *E. fallax* of Jamaica, the other, *Hyetornis fieldi*, is a very interesting addition to this genus, which before contained only the Jamaican *Hyetornis pluvialis*.—F. M. C.

**Warren's 'Taxidermy' and Bird-Laws.**<sup>1</sup>—Dr. Warren writes (Introduction, p. 9): "This Bulletin has been prepared to enable earnest students of ornithological science, who have complied with all the requirements of the act of May 14, 1889 (page 55), to learn some facts concerning the collecting and preservation of birds and their eggs." The object is a worthy one in so far as it relates to "earnest students of ornithological science," but we fear that the wholesale distribution of a pamphlet of this nature will awaken an interest in 'bird-stuffing' and result in the needless destruction of large numbers of birds. Birds mounted on "plush-covered panels" or "bamboo screens" are surely not in use for the "strictly scientific purposes" of the state law (p. 56), and suggestions for purely decorative work of this kind seem out of place in a treatise addressed to "students of ornithological science."

We are surprised to see that in spite of Dr. Warren's efforts Hawks and Owls are not protected by the Pennsylvania law.—F. M. C.

**Ridgway and Lucas on a New Family of Birds.**<sup>2</sup>—In 'The Auk' for April, 1895, p. 186, Mr. Lucas states that "Mr. Ridgway has found it necessary to establish a new family for the reception of the genus *Procnias* but the diagnosis has only recently appeared, in addition to which Mr. Lucas gives in a separate paper the osteological and pterylographical characters. The group has hitherto held the position of a subfamily of the Tanagridæ; and no one familiar with these birds can have failed to notice their aberrant characters, as compared with other Tanagers. Mr. Lucas says, respecting the osteology, that the skull, "in spite of its

<sup>1</sup> Bulletin No. 6. Department of Agriculture. Division of Economic Zoölogy. Taxidermy. How to Collect, Skin, Preserve and Mount Birds. The Game and Fish Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Illustrated. By B. H. Warren, M. D., State Zoölogist, Harrisburg, Pa. Second edition. Clarence M. Busch, State Printer of Pennsylvania, 1896. Svo. pp. 128, fig. xi.

<sup>2</sup> Characters of a New American Family of Passerine Birds. By Robert Ridgway, Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, No. 1076, pp. 449, 450.

Osteological and Pterylographical Characters of the Procnitidæ. By F. A. Lucas, Curator of the Department of Comparative Anatomy. *Ibid.*, No. 1077, pp. 505-507, with 5 cuts.